



# Neighborhood Association Monthly Report

December 2021  
City of South Bend



CITY OF SOUTH BEND  
COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Engagement and Economic Empowerment Team

# Neighborhood Overview

"Keep your face always toward the sunshine, and shadows will fall behind you." - Walt Whitman



## 8 Neighborhoods held meetings in December

	Future	Past
Kennedy Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work being planned for Kennedy Park neighborhood center renovations.</li><li>• Awarded grant for the repair of neighborhood center roof</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meeting at Lasalle Park Library until further notice</li><li>• Hosted a Holiday Party on Dec 21st.</li></ul>
River Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Holiday yard decoration contest awarded</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Drive held November 13th</li><li>• T-Shirt design finalized</li></ul>
Miami Village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Formal Neighborhood plan</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Applied for printing assistance for a neighborhood map</li></ul>
Far Northwest Neighborhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Met with Containart to discuss bid for duplex</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion about Duplex Development</li></ul>
Near Westside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion on neighborhood plan January 25</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Did not meet in December</li></ul>
Monroe Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Exploring potential of purchasing properties</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Christmas caroling throughout the neighborhood on december 16th</li></ul>
Lincoln Bendix	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MLK Center Input Sessions on</li><li>• January 10th</li><li>• February 10th</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion about potential new construction in neighborhood</li></ul>
NENC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion about proposed "5 corners" development</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No meeting in December</li><li>• NENC Food pantry did Christmas meal distribution</li></ul>
Rum Village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Neighborhood T-Shirt Design</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delivered gifts to Oliver apartments</li></ul>
SOAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Planning for spring cleanup</li><li>• SOAR website launched</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Distribution of holiday newsletter throughout neighborhood</li><li>• Held Holiday potluck</li></ul>



# More Resources

## For You and Your Neighborhood

### Neighborhood Consortium

The December Neighborhood's Consortium meeting was attended by 9-10 neighborhood associations. Based upon feedback, separate lines of communication will now be formed for business associations and CDCs within the city. Neighborhood plans continue to be worked on, with 1-2 neighborhood plans to be completed in the year going forward. If your NA is interested in a neighborhood plan, send a brief email with your NA's priorities to [planning@southbendin.gov](mailto:planning@southbendin.gov).



Contact [eee@southbendin.gov](mailto:eee@southbendin.gov) for more information.

### Citywide Classroom

Students who are enrolled in the SBCSC, live in the SBCSC district, and are on free or reduced lunch may be eligible for one year of free internet. To apply, all you need to do is call the school the child is enrolled in and fill out the application over the phone.

To learn more visit: [CitywideClassroomSB.org](http://CitywideClassroomSB.org), call or text 574-703-188, or email [info@citywideclassroomsb.org](mailto:info@citywideclassroomsb.org)

### Digital Neighborhood

Digital Communication Grants



Because of COVID-19 social distancing policies, neighborhood associations are finding it difficult to engage with residents. To help them connect, the City of South Bend's Love Your Block program is offering a **free annual subscription to an online video conferencing service** for 12 months. NA's can receive **free technical assistance**

To apply, visit:

<https://forms.office.com/r/BsvdvktdkEG>

### Contact The Chief of Police

The South Bend Police Department has offered to send an officer to neighborhood association meetings (or attend virtually), per request. If interested, or if you have questions or concerns, please contact:

**Chief of Police, Scott Ruskowski, at**  
**[sruszkow@southbendin.gov](mailto:sruszkow@southbendin.gov)**

**OR**

**Patrol Division Chief, Eric Crittendon,**  
**at [ecritten@southbendin.gov](mailto:ecritten@southbendin.gov)**

### Indiana Rental/ Utility Assistance



The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) has closed its application portal. All applications are under review. If you still need assistance, the City has information about rent and utility assistance at <https://southbendin.gov/covid-19-resources-support/covid-19-utility-support>, where you can find local assistance programs and contact information. If you have any questions, please email [eee@southbendin.gov](mailto:eee@southbendin.gov) for more information.

# What's Happening in South Bend?

## Digital Engagement Toolkit



EnFocus, the City of South Bend, and the Southeast Organized Area Residents neighborhood association (SOAR) piloted a digital neighborhood engagement. To show what works and what doesn't. From this pilot, the Neighborhood Digital Engagement Toolkit was born. The Toolkit is a guide for neighborhood associations interested in expanding their civic reach through digital platforms. The Toolkit is a reference of tested methods, drawn from SOAR's pilot experience, that will help you to digitally engage neighbors in your community. You can view the Document Below

<https://southbendin.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Digital-Engagement-Toolkit-2021.pdf>

Contact [eee@southbendin.gov](mailto:eee@southbendin.gov) for more information.

## Lead Programs

### LEAD SAFE SOUTH BEND



#### Lead Hazard Reduction Grant

The City of South Bend has grants available to assist making your home lead safe. Eligible households can apply to have lead safe repairs completed by qualified contractors at no cost! If you meet the following requirements, you might be eligible:

- Your owner-occupied or rental housing unit was built before 1978 and is located within South Bend city limits,
- Annual household income, for all adults 18 and older, is below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) as determined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development – see the table below, and
- A child under 6 lives in or frequently visits the house, or a pregnant woman lives in the house.\*

\* Addressing lead in houses where a child under 6 can be exposed is a priority, however units without a child under 6 may still be eligible (including vacant rentals). These units are considered low-priority and will only be assisted if funding is available.

	1-Person Household	2-Person Household	3-Person Household	4-Person Household	5-Person Household	6-Person Household	7-Person Household	8-Person Household
80% AMI	\$41,200	\$47,050	\$52,950	\$58,800	\$63,550	\$68,250	\$72,950	\$77,650

\* Income limits are set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and are subject to change at any time.

If you are interested in the Lead Protection Program you can reach out to the City by visiting [www.southbendin.gov/leadsafesouthbend](http://www.southbendin.gov/leadsafesouthbend), by emailing [kfitus@southbendin.gov](mailto:kfitus@southbendin.gov), or by calling 574-235-5826.



## Emergency Rental Assistance Program

St. Joseph County's Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) is designed to decrease evictions, increase housing stability, and prevent homelessness by helping tenants whose income has been negatively impacted by COVID-19 with rent and utility payments.

ERA can provide eligible tenants with up to twelve (12) months of rental assistance. Utility assistance may also be provided to qualifying applicants for past due utilities (electric, gas, water, sewer, and trash) and home energy (fuel oil, wood, coal, pellets, and propane) expenses.

Link to ERA application:

[SJCIndiana.com/ERA](http://SJCIndiana.com/ERA)

Link to ERA application for landlords:

<https://sjcindiana.communityos.org/initial-landlord-entry>

## Questions?

To contact a specific Neighborhood Association, or for more information about this report, please email the Engagement and Economic Empowerment Team at [eee@southbendin.gov](mailto:eee@southbendin.gov).



# What's Happening in South Bend?

## SMALL DEVELOPER EDUCATION SERIES



*All Free and All Virtual:  
Monthly on 3rd Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00*

FOR DETAILED INFO & ZOOM INVITATIONS, RSVP  
[EEE@SOUTHBENDIN.GOV](mailto:EEE@SOUTHBENDIN.GOV), OR ONLINE @  
[WWW.SOUTHBENDIN.GOV/BSB](http://WWW.SOUTHBENDIN.GOV/BSB)

### Winter 2021/2022

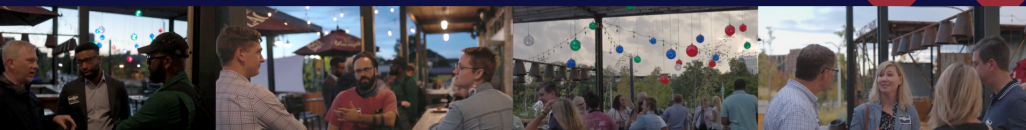
Nov 17 - Business & Team Setup  
Dec 15 - Properties & Pathways  
Jan 19 - Architecture & Design  
Feb 16 - Investment Evaluation

### Spring 2022

March 16 - Real Estate Law  
April 20 - Building & Zoning Codes  
May: Networking Event - TBD  
May 18 - Rehabbing Basics

### Summer 2022

June 15 - Site Work & Concerns  
July 20 - Finding and Managing Investors  
Aug 17 - Working with Contractors  
Sept 21 - Leases, Tenants, and Property Management



## Snow Removal

- Property owners and residents are urged to try and keep their sidewalks shoveled.
- Snow and ice must be removed from the public sidewalk within 24 hours after the end of snow or ice.
- Snow Removal Disability Exemption and Waiver of Liability Forms are available through 311 or [311.southbendin.gov](http://311.southbendin.gov)



## Paying a lot of \$\$\$ on Energy Bills?

### Are you a...

- ✓ **Nonprofit**
- ✓ **School**
- ✓ **Library**
- ✓ **Medical Facility**
- ✓ **Grocery Store**

Apply to EASSI to save energy and money through a **FREE** energy assessment and subsidized energy efficiency upgrade!

The City will match your upgrade 50% with grants of \$2,500 - \$10,000!

Learn more and get involved at:  
<https://southbendin.gov/eassi/>



CDFI FRIENDLY  
SOUTH BEND



- Free, vendor-neutral guidance from nonprofit solar experts
- Access to a discounted group rate on your system installation
- A team that solicits and reviews proposals with you
- Cost savings, energy freedom, and cleaner air and water!

Contact:

[sustainability@southbendin.gov](mailto:sustainability@southbendin.gov)  
for more information.

Questions? Go visit the site below:

[solarunitedneighbors.org/NorthernIndiana](http://solarunitedneighbors.org/NorthernIndiana)



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# What's Happening in South Bend?

## Have you gotten your monthly checks for raising kids with the Child Tax Credit yet?

You could get up to \$3,600 per child under 6 years old and up to \$3,000 per child between 6 and 17 years old from the government.

### Who qualifies?

Almost all families qualify for the Child Tax Credit. Even families that haven't filed a tax return or don't have recent income. Anyone with a child who has a Social Security number can get the Child Tax Credit, even if they don't have a Social Security number themselves.



### How do I get the credit?

If you haven't gotten your credit yet, you will need to send your info to the IRS. Visit [GetCTC.org](https://getctc.org), call 211 or use the QR code to learn more about how to get your money!



## Winter of Learning



Interested in joining the winter of learning at the St Joe County libraries?

**When:** All Winter Long!

**Where:** Events will be held at various St Joe County Public Libraries

### What:

- Learning Circles
- Presentations from Bendable and other Community Partners
- Open work Wednesday 1/26/2022 all day at TRC
- Movies at the Main street Library
  - 1/14 & 1/15 & 1/22

### More info:

<https://sjcpl.org/news/winter-of-learning/>

## MLK Day Celebration Postponed



### The 36th annual MLK Breakfast & Day of

**Celebration** will now be held  
**7:30-5pm February 21st, 2022** at the **Century Center.**

Please join us to help  
celebrate the life and dreams  
of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Contact Gladys Muhammad at 574-280-7092  
or Jessica Kitchens at 574-229-4302  
([jessicakitchens@gmail.com](mailto:jessicakitchens@gmail.com))  
for more information

## Build the Dream

[www.southbendin.gov/buildthedream](https://www.southbendin.gov/buildthedream)

Public Workshop sessions on the future design of the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center on Linden Ave will be held at the Center from 6:00-7:30pm on

- February 10th
- March 10th
- April 7th



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The University of Notre Dame presents:

# COMMUNITY BOOTCAMP FOR ENTREPRENEURS

for those in difficult circumstances  
who are trying to start or grow a business.

Saturday mornings

February 19, 26,  
March 5, 12, 19, 26  
8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Charles Martin Youth Center  
802 Lincoln Way West  
South Bend, IN

**Fee: \$500, scholarships available to everyone with financial need**

*For more information or to register:*

**574-631-9880**

**<https://keough.nd.edu/mckenna-center/south-bend-entrepreneurship/>**



McKenna Center  
IDEA Center  
Center for Civic Innovation  
Center for Social Concerns  
Community Develop. Law Clinic

*Partners:*

City of South Bend  
West Side Small Business Resource Ctr.  
Women's Entrepreneurship Initiative -SMC  
Invanti Ventures  
North Central Indiana SBDC  
Project Impact  
Latin American Chamber of Commerce La Casa de Amistad  
Notre Dame Federal Credit Union  
SCORE  
South Bend-Elkhart Regional Partnership  
Ivy Tech - South Bend  
Neighborhood Resources Connection

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